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Attorney Docket RSW920000077US1
Serial No. 09/754,891

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer program product for automated e-business services, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media of a first computing system and comprising:

computer-readable program code ~~configured for reading to read~~ a specification of an e-business service, wherein the specification is encoded in a structured markup language; and

computer-readable program code ~~configured for processing to process~~ the specification to carry out the e-business service, further comprising:

computer-readable program code ~~configured for receiving to receive~~ at least one input document for the e-business service, wherein the at least one input document is encoded in the structured markup language; and

computer-readable program code ~~configured for performing to perform~~ at least one of: transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the specification, and operating upon the input documents or the other documents to create one or more new documents, according to operating actions that may be provided in the specification.

2. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising computer-readable program code ~~configured for forwarding to forward~~ the other documents or the new documents to a computing system other than the first computing system.

3. (Deleted)

4. (Original) The computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the other documents and the new documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

5. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

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6. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code ~~configured for operating to operate~~ upon the input documents or the other documents further comprises:

computer-readable program code ~~configured for invoking to invoke~~ one or more software-implemented processes; and

computer-readable program code ~~configured for coordinating to coordinate~~ results of the invocations.

7. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim 6, further comprising computer-readable program code ~~configured for to repetitively executing~~ execute the computer-readable program code ~~configured for processing to process~~, until reaching a final result of the e-business service, wherein the other documents, the new documents, or the coordinated results of the invocations now function as the input documents.

8. (Currently amended) A system for automated e-business services, comprising:

means for reading a specification of an e-business service, wherein the specification is encoded in a structured markup language; and

means for processing the specification to carry out the e-business service, further comprising:

means for receiving at least one input document for the e-business service, wherein the at least one input document is encoded in the structured markup language; and

means for performing at least one of: transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the specification, and operating upon the input documents or the other documents to create at least one new document, according to operating actions that may be provided in the specification.

9. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 8, further comprising means for forwarding the other documents or the new documents to a computing system other than the first

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computing system.

10. (Deleted)

11. (Original) The system according to Claim 8, wherein the other documents and the new documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

12. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim ~~10~~ 8, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

13. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 8, wherein the means for operating upon the input documents or the other documents further comprises:

means for invoking at least one software-implemented process; and
means for coordinating results of the invocations.

14. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 13, further comprising means for repetitively executing the means for processing, until reaching a final result of the e-business service, wherein the other documents, the new documents, or the coordinated results of the invocations now function as the input documents.

15. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

reading a specification of an e-business service, wherein the specification is encoded in a structured markup language; and

processing the specification to carry out the e-business service, further comprising:

receiving at least one input document for the e-business service, wherein the at least one input document is encoded in the structured markup language; and

performing at least one of: transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the specification,

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and operating upon the input documents or the other documents to create at least one new document, according to operating actions that may be provided in the specification.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 15, further comprising forwarding the other documents or the new documents to a computing system other than the first computing system.

17. (Deleted)

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the other documents and the new documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~17~~ 15, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 15, wherein operating upon the input documents or the other documents further comprises:

invoking at least one software-implemented process; and
coordinating results of the invocations.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising repetitively executing processing the specification to carry out the e-business service, until reaching a final result of the e-business service, wherein the other documents, the new documents, or the coordinated results of the invocations now function as the input documents.

22. (Currently amended) A method of conducting business by using automated e-business services, comprising:

reading a specification of an e-business service, wherein the specification is encoded in a

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structured markup language; and

processing the specification to carry out the e-business service, further comprising:

receiving at least one input document for the e-business service, wherein the at least one input document is encoded in the structured markup language; and

performing at least one of: transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the specification, and operating upon the input documents or the other documents to create at least one new document, according to operating actions that may be provided in the specification.

23. (Previously presented) A method of defining e-business process and data interactions, further comprising:

defining data inputs to be used by an e-business service;

defining interactions to be carried out when operating the e-business service;

specifying details of the data inputs in a structured markup language syntax;

specifying details of the interactions in the structured markup language syntax; and

creating at least one e-business service definition document separate from at least one input document containing the data inputs wherein the specified details of the data inputs and the specified details of the interactions are recorded in the at least one e-business service definition document.

24. (Original) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

25. (Previously presented) A method of defining process and data interactions for an application described by a finite state machine, comprising:

defining data inputs to be used by the application;

defining interactions to be carried out when operating the application;

specifying details of the data inputs in a structured markup language syntax;

specifying details of the interactions in the structured markup language syntax; and

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creating at least one application definition document separate from at least one input document containing the data inputs wherein the specified details of the data inputs and the specified details of the interactions are recorded in the at least one application definition document.

26. (Original) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

27. (Previously presented) A method for automating data and process interactions between a first application and one or more other applications, comprising:

providing at least one application definition document encoded in a structured markup language, wherein the application definition documents specify the interactions and at least one data input to be used in the interactions, and wherein details of the specified interactions and data inputs are specified in the structured markup language; and

processing the application definition documents to carry out the data and process interactions in response to receiving at least one separate input document containing the at least one data input.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein processing the application definition documents further comprises:

receiving at least one input document to be used by the interactions; and

performing at least one of: transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the application definition documents, and operating upon the input documents or the other documents to create at least one new document, according to operating actions that may be provided in the application definition documents.

29. (Deleted)

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30. (Original) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.